Drinking water to Rajasthan under Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Supply Mission

†185. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount to be allocated to various districts experiencing paucity of safe drinking water for supply of potable water to the people in Rajasthan under the Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Supply Mission in the year 2008; and

(b) the district-wise details of amount targeted to be allocated by the Central Government under Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Scheme in Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU):(a) and (b) Rural water supply is a state subject and as such State Governments are primarily responsible to provide drinking water to the rural habitations. To supplement the efforts of the State Governments, financial assistance and technical support is rendered to the States through a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, namely Accelearated Rural water Supply Programme (ARWSP) under Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission (RGNDWM). State Governments are, however, competent to plan, sanction, implement and execute rural water supply schemes for the coverage of rural habitations from funds provided under ARWSP. Under ARWSP, Government of India allocate the funds to the States and not to the districts.

Setting up all-weather roads under Bharat Nirman Programme in Assam

186. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is considering to set up all-weather roads under Bharat Nirman Programme; and

(b) the status of the Programme in Assam; and the details of allocation of funds, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir, Under Rural roads component of Bharat Nirman, it is targeted to probide connectivity to all habitations with a population of 1000 persons and above (500 persons and above in the case of hilly or tribal areas) with an all-weather road by 2009. The programme also envisages upgradation/renewal of existing rural roads for farm to market connectivity.

(b) The status of Target and Achievement under rural roads component of Bharat Nirman in Assam is as under:—

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Year	New Connectivity				Upgradation	
	Length (in Km)		Habitation (in No.)		Length (in Km)	
	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
2005-06	605.90	487.70	421	346	0	0
2006-07	2864.06	1552.51	1988	804	2005.71	0
2007-08 (up to Jan'08)	3889.85	481.84	2701	134	2269.81	0

Funds under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) is released to the State as per PMGSY programme guidelines. District wise allocation is not made by the Ministry. During the current year (2007-08), the normative allocation (cess) for Assam is Rs. 181 crore against which , Rs. 405 crore has been released so far to Assam under PMGSY including assistance for the Asian Development Bank assisted rural road project.

India's ranking in terms of quality of scientific research institutions

187. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that one of the recent reports listed India at 6th position in so far as having quality of scientific research institution are concerned;

(b) whether it is also fact that another report listed India at 17th position as far as having quality of scientific research institutions are concerned;

(c) if so, the real position of India with regard to having quality of scientific research institutions in the world;

(d) the basis on which quality of scientific research is assessed; and

(e) the efforts Government is making to further rejuvenate and promote scientific research in universities and other institutions in the country?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (d) According to the "Global Competitiveness Report" brought out by the World Economic Forum, India's rank varied from 14th to 22nd during the last 5 years in terms of quality of scientific research institutions. The recent report of 2007-08 ranked India at 22nd position. The ranking of quality of scientific research institutions is based on the cross-country annual surveys conducted by the World Economic Forum.

(e) The Indian Government have taken various steps to rejuvenate and promote scientific research in the country. Some of these measures include:

— Induction of new and attractive fellowships for young and performing scientists;

— Creation of new Scientific Departments/Organisations;

— Setting up of centres of excellence/advanced studies/incubation centres in the universities, academic institutions and laboratories;